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FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9288
INFO RUEHKK/ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/WHITE HOUSE NSC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 002131

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NEA FOR FRONT OFFICE. NSC FOR ABRAMS/SINGH/WATERS. OPS
CENTER PASS TO THE SECRETARY'S PARTY.

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/12/2017
TAGS: [KWBG](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [PHUM](#) [KPAL](#) [IS](#)
SUBJECT: PALESTINIANS CONDEMN LAND CONFISCATIONS SOUTH OF
E-1

REF: A. JERUSALEM 02130
[B](#). JERUSALEM 02124

Classified By: Consul General Jake Walles, per reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

[1](#). (C) Summary. Prominent Palestinians harshly condemned the recent Israeli confiscation of Palestinian land for a road near the Ma'ale Adumim settlement bloc, which they believe will contribute to the eventual development of the E-1 area. Mayor of the neighboring town of al-'Azariya Issam Faroun told PolOff October 12 that Palestinian towns east of Jerusalem are the link between Jerusalem and the West Bank, and that Israeli actions in the area undermine the viability of a Palestinian state. End summary.

PALESTINIAN LEADERS CONDEMN
ISRAELI LAND CONFISCATIONS

[2](#). (U) Prominent Palestinians publicly denounced the Israeli confiscation of over 1,100 dunums (roughly 280 acres) of Palestinian land east of Jerusalem in statements on October 11 and 12 (Ref A). Critics linked the recent confiscations to Israeli plans to develop E-1. PA President Abbas and PLO Chief Negotiator Sa'eb Erekat issued strong public statements that said GoI actions undermine current preparations for a Fall meeting (see Ref B). Head of the Palestinian National Initiative Mustafa Barghouti said the confiscation represents the contradiction between international calls for peace and realities on the ground. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine issued a statement condemning the E-1 plan as "a serious challenge facing any future Palestinian state."

[3](#). (U) Religious leaders also harshly criticized the confiscations. Mufti of Jerusalem Muhammad Hussein said Israel is working to "isolate Jerusalem and surround it with settlements to terminate its Palestinian and Arab identity." He added that this action contributes to the cantonization of the Palestinian territories and called on the Arab League to intervene.

TOWNS EAST OF JERUSALEM HIT HARD
BY ISRAELI POLICIES

[4](#). (C) Mayor of al-'Azariya Issam Faroun told PolOff October 12 that he believes Israel and the USG are ignoring the Palestinian villages east of Jerusalem, including al-'Azariya, Abu Dis and al-Sawahira. These towns, he said, are the linchpin of connectivity between East Jerusalem and the West Bank. Israeli confiscations of Palestinian land undermine the viability of a Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital and stifle the growth of local

communities, Faroun said.

WALLES